

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER February 12, 2023

Member NE GEORGIA Presbytery,
Synod of the South Atlantic,
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



Covenant Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon Tuesday, February 14 at 12:30pm

All are invited to join us for a great time of food and fellowship. Amy Baer will speak to us about her new position at Covenant as Mission Outreach & CE Coordinator. Bring your special dish to share and bring a friend. Beverages are provided.

Bowden Church Vocations Fund

*A special offering for Covenant Presbyterian Church
February 2023*

We continue to be grateful to God for all the gifts of the Spirit seen in Covenant's ministry of the past 60 years.

Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATION FUND was established in 1996 by our Session to support our members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. A special offering for the Bowden Fund will be received this month.

Make checks out to Covenant and mark them BCVF or Bowden Fund. PLEASE RESPOND GENEROUSLY, as we support our members in this journey of faith together! Many thanks!



The Lenten Devotional—The *Presbyterian Outlook* is offering an inspiring daily devotions for Lent written

by editor Teri McDowell Ott. In *Examen: Inward work for outward living*, Ott explores the ancient spiritual practice of *examen* that focuses on honest assessment and reflection. With a different theme for each week of Lent, readers are invited to explore the connection between internal contemplation and outward action. Each daily reflection will combine personal reflection with meditation, visualization and short prayers. You will find a copy on the table in the narthex in regular and large print. Copies can be emailed but Presbyterian Outlook has requested that the devotional not be posted online.

What's the buzz?

La Table is just around the corner.

Yes, it's Tuesday, February 28. Sign up in the church office or online at www.familypromiseathens.org/events. Plus, three of Covenant's bakers, Valerie Stone, Pastors Dana Waters and Amy Baer, will be donating cakes for the cake auction.





SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Children’s (K-5) Sunday School Class

Location: Room 214 (next to the Journey Classroom)

This week’s lesson will be taught and shepherded by Jennifer Frey, Jere Bowden and Shari Cobb. The children will be reading Matthew 5: 13-16 and learning all about “Salt and Light for our World”.

Please join us and invite your friends!

Builders Class

What are you building? Pastor Dana facilitates this new class designed for people of all ages who see themselves as building something. Whether you are in the process of building a marriage, a family a career, a legacy , or something else, you are invited to join us for a weekly faith-based discussion in the library!



Church School Classes IN PERSON & via ZOOM!

UPPER ROOM CLASS- Sunday mornings at **9:30am**, James Malone hosts and different class members facilitate the discussion of the weekly chapter in *The Present Word*. If you would like to participate, via ZOOM please contact James at gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com. Class meets in person in the upper room.

JOURNEY CLASS—Sunday mornings, **9:30am**, Phil and Sallie Hale host and different class volunteers will facilitate discussion. The journey class will read and discuss the book *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor starting this Sunday 1/22. If you would like to participate via ZOOM please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com. Class meet in person in the Journey Class Room.



Volunteers Needed:

City of Refuge Athens After School Tutoring and Mentoring Program seeks volunteers! In addition to other outreach programs, we run an after school program for Clarke County elementary students striving to show people in crisis that they are valued, loved, and have resources for transformational change. We strive for a 1:1 ratio of children to adult volunteers so that each child receives the most possible support. We are eager to serve more children and have space and resources to do so (and the school has a waiting list!), but we need more volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a mentor or tutor please contact the program director, Lawson Bauch, at lawson@cityofrefugeathens.org or by phone at 706-224-3119.

2023 Mission & Outreach Updates and New Opportunities

UPDATES TO CURRENT OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Covenant Food Pantry

Our weekly food pantry continues to serve more than 100 families every Thursday. We have about 30 church volunteers and many UGA student volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, you can sign up online at the following link or email Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) and she can sign you up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/>

Collaboration with Campus Kitchen

This is truly an incredible outreach of Covenant! Currently, Campus Kitchen volunteers are using our church kitchen to cook meals on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings and they are serving and delivering meals to more than 600 people every single week.

Upcoming Needs:

1. Campus Kitchen is low on cooking volunteers in the Summer months.

Covenant Members could "Adopt-A-Week to Cook" (Sun., Mon. and Tuesday evening) one week during the Summer. 5 volunteers needed for basic food preparation tasks

2. Campus Kitchen needs food delivery drivers year-round but particularly in the Summer months. If you would like to volunteer, email Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) for more info.

NEW OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Athens Free Clinic at Covenant

The Athens Free Clinic is coming to Covenant on the following dates:

Feb. 13, March 20 and April 3 (2-4 p.m.) This is a totally free health clinic staffed by a Doctor and Medical Students from UGA. We are so excited that Covenant can now provide space for a needed health care resource for families in need right here on the East Side of Athens. This free clinic will be able to provide for urgent care needs, basic screenings, referrals to specialists, lab orders, prescriptions, and gender-affirming care (a vital extension of our hope to reach out to our LGBTQIA+ neighbors). We are testing the use of Calendly for scheduling appointments (see the link here:

<https://calendly.com/covenantclinic/free-clinic-appointment>) and we will get flyers distributed to the community as soon as possible. Our greatest need right now is for 2 volunteers for each of the above dates to be at our check-in table to hand out forms to clients coming in for their appointments.

Please email Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) to sign up for one of these volunteer spots:

Feb. 13: 2 volunteers needed

March 20: 2 volunteers needed

April 3: 2 volunteers needed

Outreach to Families of Cedar Shoals High School

We will be holding a "Care Center Drive" for the high school this coming Spring. Our hope is to collect food items for their in-school food pantry, hygiene items and underwear/socks for their clothes closet. We will need volunteers to load and deliver these items once the church has collected all of our donations.

Please contact Bert Ballard-Myer or Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) to sign up to make this delivery to the school.

LGBTQIA+ Outreach

Here at Covenant, we are gathering ideas and interested volunteers to work on reaching out to our LGBTQIA+ neighbors. As a Committee, we know that Covenant is already both a welcoming and affirming church home for all people and especially those who have been marginalized and silenced.

We are hoping to stand in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ neighbors through donations, volunteerism, advocacy and public events. A few ideas we have had so far are to have a Covenant Table at Athens Pride 2023, to march in Athens Pride Parade as a church group, to formally collaborate with the Athens Pride and Queer Collective and the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement, and to participate in the "Rainbow Resource Fair" at UGA Pride Center. If you are interested in being a part of this vision, please reach out to Bert Ballard-Myer. We hope to have a visioning gathering soon and to begin this vital outreach.

Outreach for Our Neighbors Living on the Street

We will be assembling "Essentials Kits" for our neighbors living on the street later this year (ie. soap, washcloth, simple can opener, toothbrush, toothpaste, socks, comb, deodorant). Please contact Bert Ballard-Myer or Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) if you would like to be a part of this upcoming collection.

Covenant "First Fruits" Gleaning Garden

Are you a gardener who might love to begin a backyard gleaning program here at the church? UGArden has offered to provide the church with vegetable starts if we have a group of members who would like to grow vegetables in our church backyard garden bed. This garden's purpose would be for gleaning to add to our food bags at the food pantry, donate to Campus Kitchen or otherwise gleaned for other programs serving our food insecure neighbors. Please contact Bert Ballard-Myer or Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) if you would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity!

Covenant Ambassadors

If you are a regular volunteer with a local agency or community group, please email Amy and let her know which one(s) you serve (ie. Project Safe, Our Daily Bread, Family Promise, Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Athens Nurses Clinic, Ark, Advantage, etc.). We are working on an updated list of our Covenant members who volunteer throughout the community so that we can be better at sharing community needs with the church throughout the year.

**NEW FALL
SCHEDULE for Sunday**

9:30am – 12 noon –

NURSERY

ages birth to Kindergarten

**9:30am – Worship & Arts
(K-5th),**

Journey Adult Church
School Class,
Upper Room Adult
Church School Class

10:30am Fellowship

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Liturgist: Sandy Whitney

Ushers/Greeters: Stephanie Cahill, DeLynda & Hank Tweedell, Paige Cummings

Pianist: Pam Knox

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Liturgist: Luanne Rigsby

Usher/Greeters: The Newlands, Carol Calbos, Dennis Calbos

Pianist: Pam Knox

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 1st Sunday Judy Capie 2nd Sunday

Pam Knox 3rd Sunday Tim Foutz 4th Sunday

Dick Zimdars 5th Sunday

GROUNDS STEWARDS

First Monday Week—Katy Terry & Chris Wilson

Second Monday Week—Don Bower & Alex Clark

Third Monday Week—Phil Hale & Phil Koehler

Fourth Monday Week—Susan & Randy Parish

Fifth Monday Week—Ellen & Dan Stoneburner



February 12, 2023

Don Bower, Susan Parish

February 19, 2023 James & Robyn Malone

Would you like to be a Usher, Liturgist or Greeter? Just let Judy know at jcapie@covpresahpens.org or call 706-548-2756 and she will put you on the rotation. Thanks!

Ministry of Flowers Sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes to provide flowers for worship services. You can arrange them yourself or order from a florist. If you would like to commemorate an event please let the church office know so we can publish it in the newsletter and/or bulletin. Thank you, *Worship Ministry Team*



The lovely daffodils in worship Sunday, February 12 are given and arranged by Hilda & Alex Clark from their garden.



In gratitude for Covenant's gracious and generous sponsorship, Bells of Northeast Georgia, an advanced community handbell choir, cordially invites you to its inaugural concert at Covenant. Comprised of ringers from Athens and surrounding areas, the choir's program includes a variety of sacred and secular music. Come celebrate with us! Saturday, **March 25, 4:00 p.m.**, in the Worship Center. *David Boardman, Director*

PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Dana's mom Joy, in the hospital in Augusta; Larry & Carolyn Hatfield's niece Stephanie has begun chemo for an aggressive type of breast cancer; prayers also for her husband Craig and their three young children; Bert Ballard-Myer with a severely injured finger; Arnelle Combs having knee surgery February 13; Bob Reinert returns home Saturday, Feb. 11 from the hospital in Atlanta; Patrick McMaster's mother's memorial service will be Saturday, February 25, at 1 pm at Monticello Presbyterian Church; Donald Whitehead (Donny and Dell's son) lost his father-in-law Carlis on January 29; Ron VanSickle recovering from knee surgery; Asher Hill is now on the kidney transplant list. If you would like to find out more information about being a donor please contact Asher; our nation.

Bible Readings for —February 12—19

Exodus 24: 12-18, Psalm 2

Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1: 16-21, Matthew 17: 1-19

Transfiguration of the Lord

Please submit prayer concerns and/or celebrations to the church office 706-548-2756 or kwetherington@covpresathens.org. or before worship service fill out the Prayer Concern form and put in offering plate or give to Pastor Dana.

Wonderful Wednesdays for Feb. 15, 2023

COVCONN 5:30pm—6:30pm Dinner & Fellowship.
Donations are welcome .

Please come a little early to help set up and/or stay to help clean up. There will be homework and activity time for kids of all ages.

6:00pm Handbell Practice

6:30pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Dana

7:15pm Adult Choir



Game Night

Friday, February 17
7pm to 9pm,

Bring your own games or enjoy some of ours.) *Everyone is welcome to bring snacks to eat yourself or to share.*



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people. PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience. Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people effected by this catastrophic earthquake?

GIVE: Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to [DR999999-ST earthquake](#). Gifts can be made [online by clicking here](#), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "[DR999999-ST Earthquake](#)" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Or you can make your check out to Covenant with earthquake in the memo portion of the check.

Thank you for your generous giving!

Please click on this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/documents/session-minutes/> for the session minutes. When you scroll down you will see links to earlier minutes. If you would like minutes from previous years please let me know at kwetherington@covpresathens.

HOW TO GIVE. There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving/>

Or you can click on this link www.covpresathens.org and click on online giving. And as always you can mail your check to the church office or give in person. Thank you for your faithful giving!

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #31**

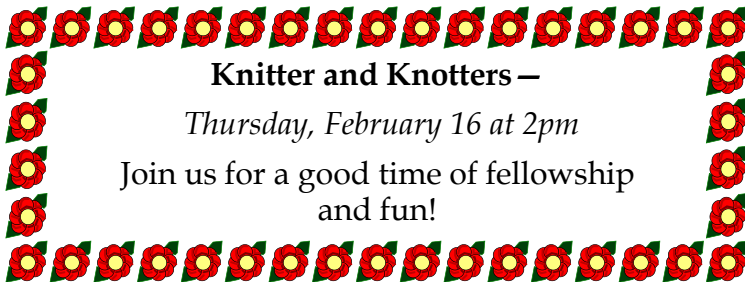
Anticipated Pledges — \$229,781.54

Actual Pledges — \$237,902.32

Non-Pledged - \$18,818.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

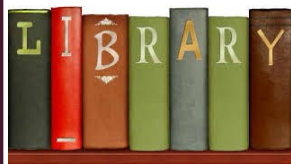
JOY Gift— \$1,475.00



Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, February 16 at 2pm

Join us for a good time of fellowship
and fun!



Library Corner

The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World.

This compilation edited by Bob Abernathy and William Bole includes essays about living a life rich with meaning from such notables as Madeleine L'Engle, Harold Kushner, Jimmy Carter, Marianne Williamson, Barbara Taylor Brown, Thich Nhat Hanh, and the Dalai Lama. (Bay F, Shelf 4) – Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*

Covenant's Lenten Collection Drive for Cedar Shoals High School Families in Need:

Many students and families from Cedar Shoals High School are struggling to meet their basic needs at this time.

The school has a "Care Center" that is usually stocked with easy-to-prepare food items and the hygiene products most needed by their students. Right now their Care Center is very low on these supplies so we are going to hold a collection for them during the upcoming Lenten season. Please see the list of needed items below and bring your donations starting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, to the table set up across from the mailboxes.

Food items needed: Ramen Noodles, Microwavable Meals (Mac & Cheese cups, soup cups, etc.) Granola Bars Breakfast Bars Peanut Butter Saltine Crackers Peanut Butter Crackers

Personal Care Items needed: Deodorant for Males and Females, Tampons, Shampoo and Conditioner for all hair types (including black hair care products) Hand Sanitizer, Bar Soap



Covenant's Food Pantry

*Isaiah 58:10—Feed the hungry and help those in trouble, then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. **Food Pantry is Thursdays, 1pm—3pm.***

Next food distribution is on Thursday, February 16

Thank You for keeping the Food Pantry going through Dec. and Jan.!

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered for our weekly food pantry!

During these weeks when our student volunteers have been away, you have stepped up and kept this vital ministry going for our community. The student volunteers are back but we still need you! Here is the Signup Genius link for you and, as always, if you have trouble using this link, feel free to email or call me to sign up (Amy Baer, Coordinator of Outreach, cell 706-380-8482 or email

abaer@covpresathens.org).

Sign Up Here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/>

We need volunteers for the following two shifts:

10am—noon: unpacking food boxes, setting up tables for assembly of the bags, filling food bags (activities that could be done seated; opening grocery bags for assembly, flattening boxes)

1pm—3pm: wheeling carts out to the driveway, handing out and gathering sign-in sheets from guests in their cars, loading bags into vehicles, cleanup boxes and carts. Thank you!

We had a young homeless woman spend the night on one of our breezeways this week. We first met her as she was sweeping up and she later borrowed a garbage bag so she could pick up in the woods. I learned her name was Rebecca and enquired of her situation.

Rebecca and her significant other were housed and doing OK as Doordash deliverers when he was thrown in jail. She continued with Doordash, but both of their cars broke down, requiring expensive repairs. She couldn't continue with Doordash and ended up on the street. She has been applying for jobs but says businesses are reluctant to hire the homeless.

While many of our guests are victims of their own personal demons, variations of Rebecca's story are also common among our guests. I describe it as falling off the train and being unable to catch it again.

On a slight up note, Rebecca was excited to learn that Cov. Pres. allows local homeless to receive mail at our address, potentially enabling her to get a job. Submitted by *Brian Striggow*



Our partner church **EAST FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH** will have their Women's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 18, 9:30am – 11:00am.

If you are interested in attending this food, fellowship and faith good time, contact Jere Bowden, Bert Ballard-Myer or Gloria Pylant.